

Our Climate Friendly Home

Our home is a 1968, three bedroom weatherboard bungalow. During the past 14 years we have methodically improved the house's performance with small steps.



We've tracked our electricity consumption over the past three years and it is currently trending down at 20% per annum. We have reduced our electricity consumption to 5,800 kwh a year and are aiming to go under 5,000 kwh very soon. (The average for a Tasmanian home uses over 10,000 kwh.)

Energy saving features include the following:

Design

- French doors to allow more sunlight.
- Planting of deciduous trees - to shade the house in summer and allow sunlight through in winter.
- Building of pelmets
- Built new back shed/room using best practice - insulated throughout, maximised solar aspect, built largely from 2nd hand materials.
- Insulated box around HW cylinder.
- Composting of all organic waste
- Re-located fridge to cool part of the house.
- Restricted use of standby power, turning lights off when not in use.
- Avoid over packaged goods / reuse plastic containers / use cloth bags
- Using hot water bottles instead of electric blankets
- Low use of car - mostly walk, bike ride, catch buses.
- 'One car' policy

Technology

- Insulation
- Solar hot water
- Low flow showerhead
- Set hot water booster at 60°C
- Small heat pump
- LED/T5/ fluorescent lights
- Honeycomb blinds
- 4-Star washing machine
- Removed electric clothes dryer
- 'Top Hat' self-closing exhaust fan.
- Double glazed windows
- Microwave oven

Household Practices

- 40 sq metres actively cultivated vegetable /small fruit gardens
- Fruit trees and vegie garden supply 100 kg of produce a year..
- Reuse 2nd hand furniture, op shop clothes, reusing materials and water as much as possible.

Our next Steps

- Build more pelmets
- Install photo voltaics (October)
- Install more honeycomb blinds
- Extend vegetable garden area
- Thicken ceiling insulation
- Downsize car size when practical
- Convert carport to bikeport

